

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 261220Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9673

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 2249

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5847

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CZ

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON THE HUSAK/DUBCEK CONTROVERSY

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

1. THE SOVIET PRES HAS AVOIDED SIGNIFICANT INDEPENDENT COMMENTARY ON THE DUBCEK LETTER AND HUSAK'S COUNTERATTACK, BUT HAS NEVERTHELESS NOW SIGNALLED ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE CZECH COMMUNIST PARTY ON THE ISSUE.

2. THE WEEKLY ZA RUBEZHOM ON APRIL 25 REPRINTED EXCERPTS OF THE HUSAK APRIL 16 SPEECH, INCLUDING THOSE PORTIONS CONTAINING
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ATTACKS ON DUBCEK AND SMRKOVSKY. ZA RUBEZHOM'S BRIEF INTRODUCTORY

COMMENT ASSOCIATES THE OFFICIAL SOVIET LINE WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF HUSAK'S REMARKS, PARROTING HIS USE OF THE WORD "RENEGADES".

3. MORE IMPORTANTLY, PRAVDA ON APRIL 26 SIGNIFIES OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR HUSAK IN A REPORT SIGNED BY ITS CORRESPONDENT IN PRAGUE, V. GRINYUK. THE REPORT PARAPHRASES HUSAK'S SPEECH TO REPEAT HIS ATTACKS ON DUBCEK AND SMRKOVSKY. IT CITES WIDESPREAD SUPPORT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR HUSAK'S ACTIONS, CLAIMING AS EVIDENCE THE "MANY" LETTERS TO EDITORS OF CZECH NEWSPAPERS. PRAVDA'S SUPPORT IS MOST STRONGLY STATED IN ITS STATEMENT THAT HUSAK HAS "REBUFFED" THE "HOSTILE CAMPAIGN" BEING WAGED AGAINST THE "CZECH COMMUNIST PARTY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA" BY "REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ANTICOMMUNISM WITH THE AID OF RENEGADES OF THE COMMUNIST AND WORKERS MOVEMENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ITSELF".

4. COMMENT: THE SOVIET PRESS HAS BEEN SLOW TO COME TO HUSAK'S AID IN THE CONTROVERSY, AND AT LEAST AS YET HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT NIGGARDLY IN THE ASSISTANCE IT HAS BEEN WILLING TO PROFFER HIM. THE SOVIETS, IN ANY CASE, CAN HARDLY BE HAPPY ABOUT THE RUCKUS BEING RAISED DURING THIS CRUCIAL STAGE OF CSCE. MOSCOW OF COURSE HAS LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO SUPPORT HUSAK IN THE FINAL CRUNCH, AND WE MAY SEE MORE SOVIET COMMENTARY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

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Message Attributes

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